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PATENT

2/9/82

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

December 21, 2001

Paul C. Steinhardt Reg. No. 30 806

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination, kindly amend the above-referenced continuation application as follows:

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph no. 0001 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--This application is a continuation of Serial No. 09/013,357, filed January 26, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,280,705 which is a continuation of Serial No. 08/395,680, filed February 28, 1995 and now U.S. Patent No. 5,798,091, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/284,083, filed August 1, 1994 and now U.S. Patent No. 5,605,673, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/099,951, filed July 30, 1993, now abandoned.